

**Roxbury Township**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020 Real Estate Taxes**  
**Statement on Extension of Grace Period**

**Roxbury, NJ** -- On April 28, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 130 which provided municipalities the opportunity to extend the statutory grace period for paying 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020 real estate taxes. The order did not extend the deadline to pay property taxes, it merely provided municipalities with the opportunity to extend the grace period for the late payment of property taxes, from 10 days after the deadline, which was May 10, to June 1, 2020.

While the action of Governor Murphy was well-intentioned, the order was issued so late that it has not provided municipal governing bodies an adequate opportunity to determine if an extension of the grace period is feasible.

However, it is important to note that if the grace period were extended, the Township would still need to give the county and school district their share of the property taxes, regardless of whether the taxes are collect or not. As you may be aware, the school district's portion of the tax is the largest part of the property taxes collected. In order to make these payments, the Township will need to utilize a significant portion of its fund balance or must borrow the money. The costs of borrowing money will be borne by all taxpayers of Roxbury Township.

Another important factor is that a majority of Roxbury's real estate taxes are remitted by escrow companies that service the mortgages of Township residents. Please keep in mind that the escrow companies have already collected the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter real estate taxes from homeowners. In other words, granting a 20-day extension provides no benefit to those residents.

Sensitive to the financial burden placed on residents by the COVID-19 quarantine, the Township Council has introduced a 2020 budget which does not raise taxes, maintaining the tax rate at the 2019 level.

If the Governor issues future executive orders to delay the payment of taxes or to extend the grace period, we are hopeful that the order will also provide for a delay in remittance of taxes to the County and School District. If this occurs, it would be much easier for Roxbury to enact an extension. Without that important action by the governor, Roxbury has no plans to change the existing grace period.

We realize any help would be welcome during these difficult times — even a 20-day extension of the grace period. However, we are obligated to make sure that by granting such an extension, we do not make matters worse for many of the taxpayers in the Township.

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